

STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR HALEY BARBOUR
ON PRELIMINARY FISCAL CALCULATIONS

“The preliminary figures I shared with the legislative leadership today are based on a least-change model that would make the fewest and smallest cuts for departments and agencies allowed under the stimulus rules as we understand them. I cautioned the leadership that these calculations are still subject to approval by the federal government in certain areas; in addition, these figures assume restoration of the \$90 million hospital tax and a tax increase of 42 cents per pack on cigarettes, making a total state tax of 60 cents per pack. I hope the Legislature will also enact tax increases on smokeless tobacco products and non-participating cigarette companies.”